



CLEAN WATER INDIANA 2006 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Centralized Office Manager

Knox County Clearinghouse Coordinator Program



Knox SWCD

Left to right:
Ken Eck and Troy
Hinkle

Knox SWCD
Knox County Government

We propose to train an existing staff member to become a clearinghouse coordinator for conservation programs in Knox County. With such a large number of programs it is becoming increasingly apparent that we need to have a staff member present in the office at all times who can provide information on all of the federal, state, and local programs being offered through the Knox County SWCD. This coordinator will be the first point of contact for those seeking information on conservation programs, will assist in determining eligibility, and will facilitate program sign-up when appropriate.

Noble County - Centralized Office Manager

Noble SWCD
Noble County Commissioners
Noble County Council
NRCS
ISDA
SSCB

Just in the staff restructuring process we anticipate this grant would bring more promotion of programs and more federal dollars to assist the Noble County SWCD in addressing more of the current soil and water resource concerns in the county. Providing top-notch customer service is important to having good reputation and expanding clientele base. By having a "Centralized Office Manager" in Noble County, we could better free up technical staff to complete field work so that the district can service more clients and in a more efficient way, thus addressing more conservation issues on the ground each year. This grant would significantly improve on placing clients with the right program and staff in areas they excel and are efficient, thus leading to more conservation participation and good working relations.

Regional Technician

Delaware & Blackford Counties - Conservation Technical Assistance



Delaware SWCD

Left to right:
Dave Gowin,
Wayne Bothel,
Dan Dunten,
Don Black, and
Doug Scholer



Blackford SWCD

Left to right:
Rex Baxter, Dan
Dunten, and Don
Hardesty

Delaware SWCD
Blackford SWCD
NRCS

A technician will immediately be able to perform duties which will "free-up" the District Conservationist and the Technical Team so that they may design and install conservation practices more quickly in the two counties. Initial projects include:

1. the promotion of federal programs,
2. writing conservation plans,
3. performance of status reviews for CRP practices,
4. wetland determinations.

Elkhart, LaGrange, Noble & Kosciusko Counties - Elkhart River Watershed Regional Technician



Elkhart SWCD

Left to right:
Nancy Brown
and Jim Lake



LaGrange SWCD

Left to right:
Jim Lake, Peter Cook,
and Donna Hunter



Kosciusko SWCD

Left to right (back):
Jamie Scott, Jon
Roberts, and
Sherman Bryant
Left to right (front):
Linda Hixson, Wanda
Bruner, Brian Pyle and
Darci Zolman

Elkhart SWCD
LaGrange SWCD
Noble SWCD
Kosciusko SWCD
NRCS
ISDA
IDEM

Elkhart River Restoration Association
Elkhart River Alliance
Purdue Cooperative Extension
Elkhart County Parks
City of Elkhart
City of Goshen

This individual will work with the Indiana Conservation Partnership and the agricultural community within the Elkhart River watershed. With guidance and assistance from existing staff, meetings will be held throughout the watershed. They will promote conservation practices and programs available for

solving erosion and nutrient problems on ag lands in the watershed. (The meetings will also be used to help landowners understand how record keeping and good management practices can prepare them for CSP.) All available cost-share programs will be promoted, including cost-share that should soon be available from the Elkhart River Alliance's 31 9 Grant. Once landowners have been informed of the opportunities available to them, this technician, the technician will assist the SWCDs with field tours.

Hancock, Rush & Shelby Counties - Tri-County Conservation Partnership

Hancock SWCD

Rush SWCD

Shelby SWCD will assist them in conservation planning, identifying erosion control needs, and working with the Conservation Implementation Team to install BMPs to address those needs. The technician will continue to assist landowners as they address their resource concerns. After BMPs have been installed

Hancock County Government

Rush County Government

Shelby County Government

ISDA

NRCS

The Tri-County Conservation Partnership is looking into combining efforts for the preservation and protection of our soil and water resources. To provide landowners with resources to address various soil and water problems they are dealing with on their properties other than Farm Bill programs that they may not qualify or "fit-into". Expansion of educational field day opportunities for all counties to share in the experience – pooling resources and technical assistance.

Kosciusko, Fulton & Marshall Counties - Regional Technician for Tippecanoe River Watershed



Kosciusko SWCD

Left to right (back):

Jamie Scott, Jon

Roberts, and

Sherman Bryant

Left to right (front):

Linda Hixson, Wanda

Bruner, Brian Pyle and

Darci Zolman



Fulton SWCD

Front row:

Janice Koch

Back row:

Matt Harsh,

Mike Norman,

Jim Lake, and

Lanty Armstrong

Kosciusko SWCD

Fulton SWCD

Marshall SWCD

The Nature Conservancy's Tippecanoe River Project

This position will focus efforts in 4, II- digit watersheds of the Tippecanoe River, to maximize knowledge of and participation in these and other conservation programs. The technician will conduct an outreach program that will include public meetings, dispersal of brochures, mailings and personal contacts. Through these one-on-one contacts, the technician will be able to tailor programs to unique and specific needs of individual landowners. The technician will work closely with the ISDA CREP Coordinator, SWCD, NRCS, and TNC staff to identify participants and appropriate programs, with

emphasis on CREP. The technician will assist landowners with program sign-up and do appropriate follow-up with accepted projects. In a short time, it is anticipated that the technician will be trained to assist in the design and construction checks of practices.

Program Marketing

Clay County - Field Day and Meeting Marketing Strategy



Clay SWCD

Left to right:

Matt Mace, Marshall Nuckolls, Tim Stearly, Steve Stoelting, and Leon Mercer

Clay SWCD

Mercer Farms

Schopmeyer Farm Supply

Booe's Sawmill

Gene Scully

Our office provides a lot of education for landowners and operators in our county. We would like to better prepare, present and follow-up these events with a variety of marketing tools that will keep our district better prepared. The first object we are looking to buy is a color printer, copier, and scanner, for our office. We can use this to print color brochures and handouts regarding our field days. We can also use this to fax fliers to other organizations that need to be contacted in regards to our field days. We would like to have a sound system that would amplify speaker's voices during these events. The sound system we use for our annual meeting is old and often times do not work right. Having our own sound system would ensure us that we could provide adequate information to those in our audience. We would also like to provide all of our speakers with a lectern to speak at while presenting at these events and field days. We are going to obtain the lumber as a donation from a local sawmill and we will have the lectern put together by a volunteer.

We will also have a small cost of adding a microphone stand and a sign to the lectern. Finally, we would like to purchase some large magnetic clips that we can hand out at our events. The clips can be stuck on any metal surface and hold pictures, papers, schedules, etc. We will have our logo printed on the side of the magnet along with our phone number.

Delaware & Blackford Counties - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Promotion and Enrollment



Delaware SWCD

Left to right:

Dave Gowin, Wayne Bothel, Dan Dunten, Don Black, and Doug Scholer



Blackford SWCD

Left to right:

Rex Baxter, Dan Dunten, and Don Hardesty

Delaware SWCD
Delaware-Blackford Farm Services Agency
ISDA
NRCS

Because a large portion of Delaware County is in the White River Watershed, and therefore, a large number of acres are eligible to be enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, the Delaware County Soil and Water conservation District is proposing a project to promote CREP in the White River Watershed of Delaware County. The promotional vehicles proposed by this project will include, but are not limited to:

1. An article in the District newsletter, which will be sent to all producers registered with the local Farm Services Agency office
2. A press release prepared by the District, and sent to the local newspaper
3. A promotional mailing, sent to target producers within the watershed
4. Promotional materials made available at the District's annual meeting, and at the District booth during Farm Festival, Delaware County Fair, and other applicable events
5. Face-to-face contacts, should the District receive Clean Water Indiana grant monies to fund a Regional Technician

Dubois County - Conservation Security Program Promotion



Dubois SWCD

Left To right:
Jack Welp, Glenn
Menke, Judi
Brown, Sam
Oxley, Ken Eck,
and Alan Weyer

Dubois SWCD
NRCS

The Board of Supervisors of the SWCD would like to help farmers in Dubois County to be ready when the Conservation Security Program is available in county watershed areas. To help them understand the program, and to encourage them to prepare for the program now by completing conservation practices on their land, the Supervisors would like to host an informational workshop. Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff will be asked to present the most up to date information about the Conservation Security Program, and answer any questions. The SWCD will provide copies of the CSP self-assessment, and any other handouts and materials available. Although the county farmers and landowners will benefit from the Conservation Security Program financially, the increase in the number of conservation practices installed will be of benefit to the entire population, both financially and environmentally.

Dubois County - Heavy Use Area Protection Marketing Incentive



Dubois SWCD

Left To right:
Jack Welp, Glenn
Menke, Judi
Brown, Sam
Oxley, Ken Eck,
and Alan Weyer

Dubois SWCD
NRCS

To market the benefits of cattle watering pads by offering a cash incentive for the construction of these heavy use protection areas. Dubois County has many farms with concentrated animal populations. The SWCD Supervisors would like to encourage the stabilization of the areas intensively and frequently used by cattle through the creation of cattle watering pads. This stabilization will be done by surfacing the areas intensively used with a suitable material, such as gravel, and/or installing water tanks. The increased use of the heavy use protection areas will reduce soil erosion by stabilizing the surfaces where cattle frequently water. This project will be promoted in Dubois County by the Livestock Specialist. He will work with the Supervisors to determine areas where heavy use protection is needed, and will visit those landowners to explain the project. The SWCD goal for the project is for 15 all weather tank/gravel watering pads to be installed, and 15 of the gravel pads only. Total Clean Water Indiana funds requested is \$12,000.00. During the life of the project, landowners may request more of one type of cattle watering pad over the others, so the end result may be more or less than 15 of each. The SWCD would like to receive % of the cost share funds at the beginning of the project, with the balance of the funds to be paid at the completion.

Hendricks County - Indiana CREP Program Marketing

Hendricks SWCD
Hendricks County Farm Bureau
Hendricks County Purdue Extension

The principal land use dynamic in the area is urbanization. However, grain farming and small livestock operations continue to be important in the watershed. With numerous streams and ditches, the riparian and buffer practices of the Indiana CREP offer unique opportunities to protect water quality. Of all of the available conservation programs for farmers, CREP provides the greatest program benefits for the eligible practices. Securing substantial enrollment in this urbanizing environment will be challenging. This makes all the more important the need to market the program to those who are willing to participate and take advantage of program benefits.

Henry County - Conservation Tillage Awareness

Henry SWCD
Henry County Purdue Extension
NRCS
ISDA
Smith Implements Inc.
Fraley Truck & Implements
Bane Equipment Sales LLC
Dennis Equipment Inc

Ag-One Co-Op
Luellen Bros Inc
Royster-Clark Inc
Friends of the Big Blue River
Ducks Unlimited
Indiana Chapter of Nature Conservancy
Laker Farm Implement Service

Promote No Till through a conservation tillage field day encouraging landowners and producers to sign up for the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program. In 2004 Henry County planted only 5% no till corn. Randolph, Wayne and Delaware Counties had 50% or more acres planted in no till corn.

1. Mail newsletters that provide on no till adoption and keys to success via postal service
2. Advertising for No Till Workshop
3. Publishing articles in local newspapers
4. Advertise in Purdue Extension newsletter
5. Inform through neighboring SWCD's
6. Radio Announcements
7. Host a No Till Field Day

Huntington County - Being Ready for CSP and Protecting Our Streams, Wetlands and Surface Waters



Huntington SWCD

Left to right:
Joe Carroll,
Kyle Lund, Don
Davenriner, Ned Ruble
and Hal Hoffman

Huntington SWCD
NRCS
FSA
Huntington Co. Surveyor

We are promoting buffers to protect our water bodies and preparing landowners for CSP requirements. We have water bodies that are listed on the 303 D list for impaired water bodies for nutrient and sediment contaminants. We will provide information about the benefits of buffers.

1. We will provide informational materials about the CSP program and what landowners need to be doing now to qualify for CSP.
2. Provide information about what to do to achieve the highest tier.
3. Hold a workshop to provide information about CRP and EQIP and how implementing these programs will help them to have better chance of qualifying for CSP.
4. Conduct a local conservation tour showing areas in need of projects and those with projects completed.
5. Prepare display for promoting buffers at county fair booth, at local business during Soil Stewardship Week and workshops.
6. News releases to local papers promoting buffers and CSP programs.
7. Print brochures and newsletters to send to landowners.
8. Payment of \$200.00 to the Huntington County SWCD for each buffer strip project (maximum of 20 projects) signed up between April 1, 2006 and December 31, 2006.

Jay County - Filter Strips - The Right Choice!



Jay SWCD

Left to right:
Bettie Jacobs,
Dan Dunten, and
Carl Walker

Jay SWCD
USDA/FSA
NRCS
Purdue
Jay Co. Commissioners, Jay County Surveyor

1. Development/printing of a tri-fold brochure outlining detailed information on filter strip installation and benefits with step-by-step guidance from start to finish;
2. Intensive involvement with the County Drainage Board and County Surveyor in identifying landowners whose ditches have been or scheduled to be cleaned by the county. Once areas are identified, direct contact with landowner through the US Mail Service and personal visits to explain the benefits of installing a filter strip beside the cleaned ditch and other ditches on landowners ground;
3. Conduct a local conservation Tour in the Fall of 2006 highlighting filter strips and other conservation practices. Those invited to participate would include the State Representative, County Council, County Commissioners, County Surveyor, County Solid Waste District, City Mayors and Purdue Extension Service. At the conclusion of the local tour, a meal for the participants and the opportunity for further education of conservation measures to be discussed. This tour/meal is an instrument used by the SWCD to lay groundwork with the local legislative audience who control county dollars for future and continual financial support. Those assisting with this endeavor would include the SWCD staff and Supervisors, NRCS, USDNFS.
4. Conduct a county-wide workshop focusing on Filter Strips. The subject matter "Filterstrips - the Right Choice!" will include a meal for participants and an educational workshop provided by the SWCD, NRCS and USDNFS;

5. Media coverage and local advertisement of the Conservation Tour & Filter Strip Workshop by the local newspapers and radio station;
6. Prepare a table-top display promoting filter strip installation to be displayed at county community events to that could include Ag Week activities, Ag Day Breakfast, Farmers Dinner, County Fair, Pennville Fair, Loblolly Days, SWCD Annual Meeting and etc.
7. Media coverage promoting the SWCD owned conservation equipment (seeder and straw mulcher) available for rent and used for the seeding of filter strips, waterways, pond banks and etc.
8. Payment of \$200.00 to the Jay County SWCD for each filter strip signed up between the dates of April 1, 2006 and December 31, 2006 (with a "ceiling" of 20 filter strip sign-ups during the nine month period).

Johnson County - 2006 Soil & Water Stewardship Program



Johnson SWCD

Left to right:

Bob Weaver, Barry Barnett,
Kevin Thompson, Dan
Perez, and Bruce Findley

Johnson SWCD
NACD

Each year the Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District provides soil and water stewardship materials free of charge to local schools, homeschools, and churches. In 2005, we provided over 10,000 pieces of literature reaching over 92 classrooms. This year's theme for Stewardship Week is "Water Wise." To ensure future water supplies, we need to learn about water resources, and plan to use them carefully. Interested educators will receive order forms through our office or off our website. The order deadline is March 31st. The orders are filled and dropped off to each school or church no later than 2 weeks prior than Stewardship Week begins. Other program materials are inserted along with the stewardship materials to help promote conservation programs within the county.

Knox County - Conservation Marketing Initiative



Knox SWCD

Left to right:

Ken Eck and Troy Hinkle

Knox SWCD
NRCS

The Knox County SWCD currently has two full-time technical positions that are funded by the county and one part-time technician that the District funds through donations. In the first quarter of 2006 we will be converting one of the full-time positions into a marketing/technical position with an emphasis on marketing. We want to market continuous no-till, cover crops, and NRCS programs. We propose a payment per acre for no-till conversion and cover crop plantings, and a payment per occurrence for grassed waterways, buffer strips, field borders, and WASCObS.

1. No-till - \$3 per acre for land converted to continuous no-till; 1000 acres-\$3000.
2. Cover crops - \$1 per acre for land planted to cover crops; 3000 acres-\$3000.
3. Waterways, buffers, borders, and WASCObS - \$50 per occurrence, up to 30 occurrences; \$1500.

LaGrange County - CSP Coming to a Watershed Near You



LaGrange SWCD

Left to right:

Jim Lake, Peter Cook,
and Donna Hunter

LaGrange SWCD
NRCS
Purdue

This project would enable the soil and water conservation district to promote the Conservation Security Program with farmers in LaGrange County. The first part of the project will consist of holding two CSP meetings to introduce the program to LaGrange County farmers. LaGrange has not had a watershed selected for funding with this program, but we want our farmers to be prepared when that time comes. At the same time we would be developing a brochure to be used by the farmers in the county to determine their eligibility and to explain the program. The final portion of the project would be to provide an incentive to landowners who are already doing some of the things required by CSP. An example would be to provide \$1 per acre up to 500 acres for no-till or nutrient and pest management record keeping. The goal would be to work with at least ten landowners in the county. Requirements to be eligible for the program are as follows: the landowner/operator needs to attend one of the CSP meetings to learn the basics of the program; the landowner/operator would need to provide proper records showing nutrient and pest management was being done under the guidelines of CSP; and/or proof of use of no-till for planting. Maximum a landowner could receive is \$500.

LaPorte County - Working with your SWCD

LaPorte SWCD
LaPorte MS4
LaPorte County Parks & Recreation
LaPorte City Parks & Recreation
LaPorte County Farm Bureau
Local Forestry Consultants

LaPorte County Soil & Water Conservation District would like to provide a series of 5 workshops throughout the year of 2006. We would like to begin in April of 2006 with a Tree Planting workshop for our tree sale customers and other interested parties. For this event the District will ask an area forestry consultant for their expertise, and help our customers and any other interested parties with any questions they may have regarding tree planting and care. The SWCD will then continue with "Building Site Respect" session to help area contractors, builders, County and City Government understand Rule 5 and Rule 13. For this workshop we will utilize our MS4 Coordinator, Building Commissioner, and any others. This session will help our area contractor builders and other intended parties understand Rule 5 and Rule 13. The District will then provide a "Wise Land Use" work session for citizens of LaPorte County. This work session will discuss and identify the land use issues throughout the County, and develop a plan to address the land use issues throughout the County.

Lawrence County - CP-29, filter strips, Heavy Use Area Protection, and Timber Stand Improvement



Lawrence SWCD

Front: Marsha Ralston, Mike Spreen, Laura Fribley

Back: Richard Huntrods, Neil Hayes, Robert E. Mundy, Pete Isom

Lawrence SWCD
NRCS
ISDA
IDNR
RC&D

Existing federal and state programs provide cost-share incentives to landowners. However, the availability of these programs is often unknown to many eligible landowners with conservation needs. We propose to employ staff time, advertising, and field days in order to promote the planning and implementation of conservation practices in the areas of CP-29, Filter Strips, Heavy Use Area Protection, and Timber Stand Improvement. We will especially target areas of the county known to be sensitive to erosion, such as areas near or adjacent to perennial streams and waterbodies and karst areas which contribute to ground water.

Madison County - CREP Marketing Program



Madison SWCD

Left to right:
Scott Trennepohl,
Janelle Parke,
Judy DeLury,
Garland Antrim,
Crist Blassaras,
Gene Best and
Bob Ellis

Madison SWCD

The project will create materials, plan events, and develop informational resources to market the CREP program in Madison County. All materials generated will be shared with Doug Walker, Upper White River Watershed CREP Coordinator, to be used in other counties or watersheds. The following items are planned:

1. Mail to all farm operators of Madison County (1,883 total) an explanatory letter introducing the CREP program & a two-color Upper White River Watershed CREP brochure.
2. Conduct at least two field days in Madison County to introduce interested parties to the CREP program
3. Create a tri-color vinyl poster (2x43) to promote CREP
4. Promote CREP at approximately 4 public events annually, such as the County Fair or 319 Watershed Project activities
5. Create a CREP webpage on existing Madison County SWCD website
6. Submit approximately 2 CREP press releases to local newspapers
7. Increase CREP participation and receive an incentive payment for each CREP sign-up directly attributable to SWCD efforts.
8. Create and print letter-size flyers to promote CREP and post in appropriate places. These will also be made available to interested individuals who want to learn more information about the program.
9. Mail 1,883 4.25" x 5.5" postcards to all farm operators in summer 2007 as a reminder they have 6 more months to sign-up for CREP

Miami County - Buffer Initiative



Miami SWCD

Left to right:
Chuck Westfall, Troy
Hattery, Dave Payne,
Jerry Miller, and
A.J. Jordan

Miami SWCD
NRCS
FSA
Quail Unlimited
DNR- Fish & Wildlife

The purpose of the program is to install more conservation buffers on the land with an emphasis on saving soil, improving water quality and enhancing wildlife in the county. We will promote the awareness that buffers and other related conservation practices will save the landowner operator dollars in the future by keeping their topsoil from eroding. This will also reduce sediment and nutrients from entering bodies of water. The promotion of buffers and other practices will also help prepare landowners for future CREP & Conservation Security Program sign-ups. The Miami Co. SWCD will do the following:

1. Hire an individual to promote conservation practices such as filter strips, buffers, forest plantings and best management practices in Miami Co. (Squirrel Creek sub-watershed is currently on the 303d list of impaired waters with Little Pipe Creek near Salem Creek coming on the list and a TMDL study is currently being done on the Wabash River)
2. Promote use of native grass seeding as an option for vegetated filter strips.
3. Promote conservation programs to new clients on a one-on-one basis.
4. Provide new clients with a personalized farm folder with new maps, conservation concerns and program solutions
5. Promote all USDA CRP & EQIP practices.
6. Conduct one promotional meeting to the public.
7. 4-H Fair exhibit highlighting the watersheds and conservation practices.
8. Prepare landowners for future CREP, CSP and other conservation programs.

Ohio County - Soil Testing Marketing Incentive Program

Ohio SWCD
Purdue Extension
Local Fertilizer Dealers

For a number of years, full and part-time farmers have been seeding, fertilizing, and liming pasture land and hay with very little if any information that a good soil test would provide. Most cost-share programs that this district has taken part in with land owners has required a current soil test but otherwise extension and local dealers tell us very little soil testing is being done. With the very heavy stocking of pastures and drain on hay land because people have limited acreage, proper seeding, fertilizing, and liming is a must. With the energy cost with all inputs showing a 3-fold rise during the past two years, it is very important that the dollars spent do the most good.

Our district proposal is offering a soil testing program free to land owners who have livestock (horses, goats, sheep, and cattle). This program would run for one year. The first 100' fields to apply will receive the free soil test. Row crops and cash crops would not be considered unless being seeded to grass. No more than four-fields per farm.

Owen County - Nutrient Management Planning Program

Owen SWCD
Grower's Co-op
White River Co-op
Midland Co-op

The District will soon complete an Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) Section 319 grant that provided funding for the implementation of conservation projects based upon the CORE 4 concept. This concept targets conservation tillage, crop nutrient management, weed and pest management, and conservation buffers. The grant provided cost-share to landusers implementing these practices in three watersheds located in the southwest portion of the county. During the implementation of this grant we discovered that farmers in these watersheds had a real need and sincere interest to participate in grid soil sampling as well as the development of Nutrient Management Plans for their cropland. At the completion of the project we will have assisted landowners in implementing nutrient management planning on almost 2,000 acres in these watersheds. The object of our proposal for the CWI Marketing Grant is a continuation of this much needed program into other areas of Owen County. Crop Nutrient Management increases nutrient efficiency to maximize economic return while maintaining or improving the environment. To increase nutrient efficiency, growers apply plant nutrients according to the plan developed from the results of grid soil sampling. The nutrients are applied at the right time in the right place. Better nutrient utilization by plants results in the reduced opportunity for nutrients to reach streams, rivers or groundwater. This planning approach also notes environmentally sensitive areas and other special conditions that need to be considered.

Ripley County - Conservation Tillage Initiative



Ripley SWCD

Left to right:
Irvin Harmeyer, Bill
Borgman, Becky
Reatherford, Dan Reece,
and Heather Wirth

NRCS
FFA
Syngenta
Purdue Extension
Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D No-till Committee

We hope to continue with our no-till program by adding more marketing components such as signs that can be placed beside fields indicating "No-tilled to Protect Future Generations". This would serve to highlight conservation tillage on various soil types and conditions and allow producers to interact and discuss conservation systems utilized. The Ripley County SWCD has identified county no-till numbers in the Long Range Plan and would like to increase the percent of no-till of corn and soybeans within Ripley County to 45% corn and 75% soybeans by 2011.

Scott County - Buffer Education Initiative



Scott County

Left to right:

Back: Dennis Wilson, Matt Oberlies, Robert Glenn, John Hardin

Front: Ginger Christie, Joe Robbins

Scott SWCD
NRCS
Purdue Extension
Farm Services Agency

The project consists of utilizing Clean Water Indiana dollars to increase the amount of water quality improvement buffers installed in Scott County through greater public awareness of programs and practices available. This would be accomplished by utilizing existing District and USDA staff to develop a high quality publication for marketing the buffer practices and programs available to install them. The publication would be full color and would provide details helpful for and specific to, landowners in Scott County. It would help landowners make decisions about which practices and programs would be most useful for their own situation. The project would also utilize SWCD supervisors and staff to plan and conduct an educational tour to distribute the brochure and showcase buffer practices. The tour would highlight the water quality improvement buffer practices and programs available to help landowners with implementation.

Shelby County - Community Outreach through the Web and Speakers Bureau

Shelby SWCD
Hoosier Heartland RC&D
Little Blue Watershed Project 319

1. Development of a website to promote the Shelby County Soil and Water Conservation District, and program offered through the office.
2. The website will allow for 24 hours a day 7 days a week information to landowners and residents of Shelby County.
3. Website will allow for specific topics of interest to be available to read or download.
4. Website will allow current information to be available.
5. Website will allow for our newsletter to be available and allow our postage costs to decrease
6. Educational information on specific topics will be available which will assist visitors to access the brochures or information without having to make a trip to the office.
7. Outreach through community presentations and formation of a SWCD Speakers Bureau

Starke County - Marketing Campaign to Establish Vegetative Buffers Along Streams and Open Ditches

Starke SWCD
Starke Co. Surveyor's Office

The district is proposing to establish a marketing campaign which promotes planting filter strips along streams and ditch banks. This will reduce the effort needed to clean them and will impact soil and water resources. This campaign effort will consist of targeted mailings, fair displays, office displays, business displays, brochures, and road signs.

Sullivan and Greene Counties - Birds in the Buff



Sullivan SWCD

Back row (left to right):
Travis Page, Bill
Coulson, Dan Perez,
Wayne Jackson, Bill
Mann, Monte Watts
Front row:
Bobbi Hunt-Kincaid.

Sullivan SWCD
Greene SWCD
Quail Unlimited
NRCS
DNR
FSA

ISDA
USDA
Sycamore Trails RC&D
Greene County Highway Department
Sullivan County Highway Department

Sullivan County SWCD, Greene County SWCD and Quail Unlimited plan to market Buffer Strips to restore habitat for Quail, Pheasants and upland songbirds, preserve soil and improve water quality. Additional partners will be NRCS, DNR, FSA, ISDA and Sycamore Trails RC&D. Sullivan and Greene counties Highway Departments will have a vested interest in the program. The conservation practices to be marketed will be wildlife friendly filter strips and field borders. The purpose of this conservation practice is to reverse the long-term decline of upland birds due to the loss of their habitat. The buffers will also limit sediment, nutrients and pesticides from entering streams and other bodies of water thus improving water quality. Additionally, the county highway departments would have a savings in labor costs of ditch cleaning. The program will be compatible with the CP33 Habitat Buffer Program, which is a Continuous CRP program. The CP33 would potentially pay up to 90% of the installation costs and there would be an annual maintenance payment. The CRP contracts are generally for 10 or 15 years. The program would also be compatible with DNR's Indiana Quail Habitat Incentive Program, which may be in addition to the CRP Program. Two part time technicians would be retained on a contractual basis to promote the program. They would meet with individual land owners to educate them about the program and assist them in preparing the initial paperwork and following through with the landowner to insure the installation of the practice. The technicians may also present educational workshops to inform the public. The SWCD offices would also assist in promotion of the project by preparing brochures etc.

Switzerland County - Indian Creek Watershed-Keep It Clean!



Switzerland SWCD

Left to right:
Casie Auxier, Keli Hall,
Katie Collier, Ron Cutter,
and Virgil McKay

Switzerland SWCD
Indian Creek Watershed Project
Switzerland/Ohio County Recycling Center
Switzerland County High School Environmental Science Class/Conservation Club
Switzerland County Community Foundation
Switzerland County Highway Department
Switzerland County Commissioners and County Council

Illegal dumping and littering have become an increasingly disturbing predicament within Switzerland County. The steering committee for the Indian Creek Watershed Project has been focusing on ways to curb illegal dumping and littering throughout the county and in particular within the Indian Creek watershed area. The main focus of the group has been to educate members of the community on the

harmful effects littering has on our environment as well as economic burden it places on landowners and the local government. Steering committee members feel that education and awareness are instrumental in putting an end to this unsightly problem. The project that the steering committee is proposing is to place signs throughout the watershed and in particular, areas that are notorious for illegal dumping. The signs would educate people that they are in the Indian Creek watershed area and remind them to help keep it clean. A total of 20 signs would be needed to be strategically placed on roads throughout the watershed area.

Warrick County - Partners for Warrick County Clean Waters



Warrick SWCD

Left to right:
Ken Eck and
Dana Hart

Warrick SWCD
NRCS
ISDA
Ducks Unlimited-Tentative

Quails Unlimited-Tentative
The Nature Conservancy-Tentative
Warrick County Surveyor
Warrick County Commissioners

Warrick County proposes to partner with the county commissioners, surveyor's office, Drainage Board, Quails Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, and the Nature Conservancy to improve the quality of water by promoting the implementation of field borders, filter strips, cover crops, and wetland restoration as planned in our "statement of intent" in our current five year Business Plan. The Warrick County SWCD will ask commissioners for support by presenting our plan and reporting on a monthly basis at the commissioners meetings. We will also ask the commissioners to send letters to landowners living in highly erodible areas to promote conservation programs. We will work hand-in-hand with the Warrick County Surveyor to install buffer strips on private lands adjacent to areas where the Surveyor's office is working on conservation practices. We will establish a relationship with Ducks Unlimited, Quails Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy to promote new areas of habitat and solicit sponsorship from these organizations for future funds. We will hold a Public meeting to announce our kick off and will follow up with newspaper and radio announcements to keep the public updated on available programs. We will also utilize our SWCD Newsletter.

White County - Marketing Technician



White SWCD

Left to right:
Ralph Zarse, Sharon
Watson, Jaylen Hunt, Barb
Allen, Chuck Westfall, Don
Purkhiser, Larry Kilmer

White SWCD
White County Council
ICP

The marketing of conservation within White County is being proposed as a start to finish program. We propose to utilize the White County Council funding (\$5500) and the SWCD funding (\$5500) as a base salary including mileage reimbursement for a contract employee. Of the funding requested, \$5000 will be dedicated for the Marketing Technician to utilize for kickoff meetings, Media/Field Days to showcase completed practices, and informational newsletters focused into specific watersheds. Having local priorities already in place, the White County SWCD Board of Supervisors has set a goal

of 75-100 new practices installed within the county with this process. ICP training will provide the Marketing Technician the background to speak knowledgeably concerning the Partnership's programs and practices. Training will also enable the Technician to assist landowners through the Conservation Program process, including installation and establishment verification.

Unique Partnerships

Allen, Adams & Wells Counties - St. Mary's & Maumee River Watershed Soil Erosion and Water Quality Improvement Project, Phase I



Allen SWCD

Left to right:
John Felger,
Dick Crowl,
Jim Lake,
Tom Crowe,
and Greg
Kneubuhler



Adams SWCD

Left to right:
Gene Witte and
Jessica Lynne
Meyer

Allen SWCD
Adams SWCD
Wells SWCD
Maumee River Basin Commission

Allen Co. Surveyor's Office
Adams Co. Surveyor's Office
Wells Co. Surveyor's Office
Maumee River Watershed Project

To foster greater adoption and implementation of conservation practices, a Project Manager will be hired to work with landowners and farmers in the St. Marys and Maumee River watersheds. The Project Manager and the project's partners will conduct an intensive public education and outreach effort will be launched that will create an awareness of currently available local, state and federal conservation programs. Such programs include CRP, EQIP, WRP and the Maumee River Basin Commission's Voluntary Agricultural Land-Use Conversion Program. The outreach effort will include newsletters, new articles, field days, grower meetings, on-site demonstrations and direct one on one contact. A current resource inventory, including water quality conditions and a geo-referenced database of existing conservation practices will be developed early in the project based on existing data. Much of the data needed to complete the inventory exists in various formats and from various sources. The inventory effort will be supported by the Maumee River Watershed Project (MRWP), currently underway by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Ohio NRCS. The MRWP is a part of the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership effort. The largest challenge to completing this task is to assemble the available information in a single collective format. The inventory will guide the project's efforts by identifying priority areas within the watersheds to maximize environmental benefit. In addition to the public education, technical assistance and resource inventory assessment efforts, the project will conduct focus group meetings to help identify other local resource concerns that may not be able to be discerned from water quality or related data, such as land-use issues and community development planning. The focus groups will include landowners, farmers, local business owners, local and state agency personnel, local government leaders, as well as concerned citizens. Participants in the focus groups will be encouraged to assist with the development of Watershed Management Plans (WMP) as WMP Steering Committee members.

Brown County - Corridors of Conservation: Reforestation to Reconnect Upland Forest Systems

Brown SWCD
TNC-Brown County Hills Project

Corridors of Conservation will seek to acquire 20 year conservation easements from landowners who are reforesting their properties independently or through USDA or USF&W cost share programs to plant trees. If done independently there is no guarantee that landowners will keep their property reforested, or if the property changes hands the tree planting may be abandoned or converted back into agricultural land. The Corridors of Conservation program will put in place a 20 conservation easement that will be monitored annually by The Nature Conservancy to guarantee that planted tree will have at least 20 years to become established and permanently restore bottomland hardwood

forests. The same is true of many USDA and USF&W cost share programs, they ensure that the trees are planted, but typically after 10 years there is no guarantee that the property will remain forested. Many times a 10 year old tree planting can be removed or developed without too much effort. Corridors of conservation will buy another 10 years of protection allowing the trees to become well established. Corridors of Conservation is proposing the purchase of conservation easements on reforested areas for a period of 20 years for \$225 per acre (\$11.25 per acre per year for 20 years). Following approved reforestation of the site by the State District Forester, The Nature Conservancy will sign a 20 year conservation easement with the landowner that prevents the landowner from doing any activities that adversely impact the health of the trees and allows The Nature Conservancy to inspect the tree at least once a year to ensure the easement is in force and has not been violated. Once the trees are planted and the conservation easement is signed, the landowners will be paid a flat fee of \$225 per acre (\$120 per acre from The Nature Conservancy and \$105 per acre from the Brown County Soil and Water).

Cass, Howard, Miami & White Counties - NW Indiana Habitat Team



Cass SWCD

Left to right:
Judy Buttice,
Sandy
Heckard, Nan
Ford, Jim
Miller, and
Chuck
Westfall

Cass SWCD
Howard SWCD
Miami SWCD
White SWCD
Izaak Walton League
Nat'l Wild Turkey Federation



Miami SWCD

Left to right:
Chuck Westfall, Troy
Hattery, Dave Payne,
Jerry Miller, and
A.J. Jordan

Quail Unlimited
Quail Forever
Pheasant Forever
Miami-Cass REMC
DNR F&W
NRCS

The purpose of the project is to facilitate the planting of native prairie and other seed to enhance habitat for waterfowl on lands adjacent to wetlands; to enhance upland habitat for wildlife particularly quail, pheasants, turkeys and grassland-dependent songbirds; to restore native prairie; to create corridors for wildlife movement; to reduce erosion; to improve water quality; to improve income by moving crops away from woody field edges and to enhance the overall diversity of natural resources in a 5-county area of northwest Indiana. The focus area includes Cass, Carroll, Howard, Miami and White Counties. This region of the state offers excellent opportunities to enhance habitat for grassland and wetland species most in need of conservation (i.e. eastern meadowlark, bobolink, Henslow's sparrow, upland nesting waterfowl). The four Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Izaak Walton League, Wild Turkey Federation, Miami-Cass REMC, Pheasants Forever, Quail Unlimited and Quail Forever have been active in this area for several years, and have demonstrated success in encouraging private landowners to restore and enhance grassland habitat on their property. These partners are currently expanding their effort to establish a Habitat Team to focus more on providing services to private landowners, and this agreement would foster that effort by assisting with the purchase of needed equipment. This grant request is for limited financial support to assist in the purchase of a no-till native grass drill to facilitate grassland restoration on private lands in the focus area. The objective of the project is to increase partnership opportunities to restore at least 500 acres of native prairie grass, in the focus area, over a 5-year period.

Clay County - Grid Sampling Encouragement Program



Clay SWCD

Left to right:

Matt Mace, Marshall Nuckolls, Tim Stearly, Steve Stoelting, and Leon Mercer

Clay SWCD
Clay County Growers CO-OP
Schopmeyer Farm Supply
Land O Lakes
Local landowners & producers

We are proposing a project that will allow landowners and producers to do a new program known as grid sampling on their land. Grid sampling is a process that will test soil to learn about the various nutrient levels in a field. The tests are taken in 2.5 acre grids over an entire field. This allows producers and landowners to spread various fertilizers and nutrients on certain areas of the field that are lowest, while not over fertilizing areas of the field which have enough fertilizer already. Over fertilizing has become a serious problem which is not only wasted money to producers and landowners but potentially harmful to our streams and rivers. Grid sampling is a way to help producers maximize the efficiency of their land, while keeping their fertilizing cost as low as possible. We are hoping to get an increase in the number of producers to use this new program, by writing a grant that will not only promote the program, but make the cost more bearable for the both the landowners and producers. We have an agreement with the local Growers CO-OP, Schopmeyer Farm Supply, and Land O Lakes, to each pick up \$1.00 per acre of the grid sampling cost. We are going to ask the landowners/ producers to pay \$2.00 per acre for the service, for a total of \$5.00 per acre match money. With the additional \$5.00 per acre from the grant we will pick up the additional cost of the grid sampling and promote the program. We plan to enroll 1,000 acres in the program. The total cost of the grid sampling will be around \$7,000. The remaining \$3,000 will be used to promote the project and cover the expenses of test plots and a field day that we plan to host the summer following the program.

Dubois County - Incentive Partnership for Upland Habitat Buffers



Dubois SWCD

Left To right:

Jack Welp, Glenn Menke, Judi Brown, Sam Oxley, Ken Eck, and Alan Weyer

Dubois SWCD
Patoka Hills Quail Unlimited Chapter #323
NRCS
FSA

The Dubois County SWCD will form a unique partnership with the Patoka Hills Quail Unlimited chapter and provide a \$100 incentive payment to encourage landowners to apply for CP33, and install habitat buffers for upland birds. The Farm Service Agency's CP33 is a Continuous CRP practice directed primarily at improving bobwhite quail and other bird habitat. The purpose of the program is to reverse the long-term decline the bobwhite quail population has experienced by providing undisturbed nesting, brood rearing, and escape cover adjacent to cropland. Increased cover not only assists in increasing quail and bird populations, but also provides additional cover needed to

reduce soil erosion and improve water quality. For the first time in Dubois County, the SWCD will form a partnership with Quail Unlimited and provide an incentive payment to encourage landowners to take advantage of CP33. The SWCD will commit \$2000 to the program, and Quail Unlimited will contribute \$3000. The SWCD is requesting a match of \$5000 from Clean Water funds, to total \$10,000 for this project. When interested landowners sign up for CP33, the SWCD will pay a \$1 00 sign up bonus payment. The goal for the project is to have 100 acres enrolled in the program by June 1, 2007. To maximize the number of applicants, each landowner will be limited to 10 acres, with the minimum acreage enrolled to be 1 acre. Once the incentive sign up payment is provided, the landowner will be required to follow all requirements of the CRP program, including the installation of buffers around the edges of existing grain fields, and not utilizing the buffers as turn rows, lanes, or roads. The CP33 buffers are to provide quail, pheasants, and songbirds with an undisturbed area, which will be considered "year-round hands-off" from any farming operations. Other benefits to the landowner include a 50% cost share payment to install the buffer, a 1 time incentive payment of 40% of the 50% paid by the Farm Service Agency, the annual rental rate, which will range from \$65 to \$140, and a \$5 per acre annual maintenance fee. The average cost to install a buffer is \$150 per acre. Once the landowner is enrolled, they will receive the \$100 sign up bonus from the SWCD, plus roughly \$105 per acre from the FSA to install the buffer. They will also receive the annual rent plus the maintenance payment. The Farm Service Agency staff will provide oversight for the CP33 application process. Staff from the Natural Resources Conservation Service will provide any needed technical assistance. Quail Unlimited will provide technical assistance in the installation of the buffer. QU members will transport the QU Chapter's warm season grass drill to the CP33 acres, and using a seed mix specially made for the program, will sow the buffers. They will also prepare the acres by spraying for weeds.

Franklin County - Wild Turkey Federation and Franklin SWCD No-Till Drill Partnership

Franklin SWCD

Wild Turkey Federation

The Franklin County SWCD is proposing to purchase a new 7 ft. Great Plains no-till warm season grass drill. This is the first time the SWCD has partnered with the Wild Turkey Federation. Our current 7 ft. Great Plains No-Till Warm Season Grass Drill was a cost-share project with Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) in 1999. The IDNR District Wildlife Biologist (ED Guljas) assisted the SWCD to make contact with the NWTF for the cost-share of this new 7 ft. Great Plains no-till warm season grass drill. This drill will be used by producers to establish warm season grass in waterways, field buffers and along stream banks, to protect the soil from erosion and to improve water quality. The priority watershed where the SWCD wants to use the drill is the upper west fork of White Water River and along the Historic White Water Canal. The establishment of waterways and field buffers will help control the silt/sediment from entering the White Water River and the Historic White Water Canal. The future goal of the District is to help producers establish their waterways and field buffers using warm season grasses to make it more wildlife friendly. This is the number one goal of the District.

Posey, Gibson & Vanderburgh Counties - Big Creek Water Quality Survey



Posey SWCD

Left to right:
Jim Droege, Jeri
Ziliak, Priscilla
Kelly, Tim
Hoenert, and
Ken Eck



Gibson SWCD

Left to right:
Ken Eck, Ann Ice, Mark
Marvel, Ethel Osborn,
Travis Jochim, Debbie
Wolfe, Jeff Ford, and
Steve Doerner



Vanderburgh SWCD

Left to right:
Ken Eck and Bonnie
Bittner

Gibson SWCD
Vanderburgh SWCD

Posey Farm Bureau
Gibson Farm Bureau
Vanderburgh Farm Bureau

Develop an initial base line of data relating to each of the 16 sub-watershed (14-digit) of the Big Creek Watershed. With this information, additional programs involving the application of conservation practices on the land will be initiated. This project goal is part of Posey County SWCD's business plan to assess the water quality of 50% of all 14 digit watersheds by December 2008. An initial water testing program covering both the high flow period (Spring) and the low flow period (late summer) is proposed. In conjunction with Four River's RC & D, the contractual services of an experienced individual will be retained to carry out the testing program.

Putnam County - Grazing Lands & Pasture/Marginal Land Management



Putnam SWCD

Front row:
Dan Perez,
Saraellen Peters and
Sue Crafton
Back row:
Mike Martin, Kerry
Ames, Mike Rissler,
Melvin Nicholson,
and Byron Gough

Putnam SWCD
Putnam Co. Cattlemen Association
Sheep Breeders Association
Goat Association
Elk/Buffalo Farm Industry
University of Kentucky
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education
NRCS-GLCI
Putnam County Community Foundation

Purdue Extension
NRCS
RC&D
Health Department
County Planning & Zoning
Local seeding & fertilizer companies
ISDA
Putnam County Population
News Media

Educate livestock producers in Putnam County to understand the correlation between "managed grazing and pastures to soil health and tilth. Engaging the producers in a cost share program that will address the issues they have on their grazing and pasture lands that will help them maintain their lands productivity and that of their livestock. Improving the health of the livestock thus bringing better market prices that will then enable the producers to develop better economic plans for the future of the county. Addressing the needs of marginal lands will benefit the wildlife and scenic byways of our county thus bringing economic stability to the county. The steps that will be taken in this project are:

1. This project will initially be one of education. Through working with the partners, a list of livestock producers and interested citizens will be contacted and invited to a general informational meeting potentially held in three areas of the county.
2. A list of interested producers will then be contacted. Four to five producers will be signed up for the pilot project in the various regions of the county.
3. By working with these four or five initial producers a cost share program will be developed to improve grazing and pasture lands.
4. Marginal lands will be addressed by an assessment, completed on a developed check sheet of pertinent criteria, and entered into the project according to the prioritization ranking and monies available.
5. An assessment tool will be developed to measure the success of the project to determine how to implement this project as a long-term program for our county.
6. While these steps are simplistic in nature the outcomes that will be reaped are one of our major priorities. The project will evolve into a lasting program for our economic benefit. It also addresses the soil and water issues by not overgrazing lands leading to soil run-off.